

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD APPLAUDS FINAL PASSAGE OF SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS BILL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION BILL TO BE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, D.C. – Legislation offered by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Colorado Third District U.S. Representative Scott McInnis (R-CO) to designate the Spanish Peaks as wilderness gained final Congressional approval today. The Spanish Peaks Wilderness bill was unanimously passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, clearing the way for the 18,000 acres encompassing the Spanish Peaks, located near La Veta, Colorado to become the state's newest wilderness area. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed the same bill in April of this year.

“Final Congressional approval is a victory for the people of Southern Colorado who have worked so hard to designate the Spanish Peaks a wilderness area,” said Allard. “Today marks the end of years of hard work by the people of Huerfano and Las Animas Counties and now we can celebrate that the beauty and splendor of this spectacular area will be preserved for generations to come.”

The Allard-McInnis bill designates approximately 18,000 acres as wilderness in and around the Spanish Peaks near La Veta, Colorado. The East and West Spanish Peaks which rise 13,626 and 12,683 feet high are visible from 75 miles away. The peaks and surrounding area were added to the National Registry of Natural Landmarks in 1977. The Spanish Peaks were first recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service in 1979. After years of study, a number of public meetings, and several Forest Service in-holding purchases of old mining claims, Senator Allard and Representative McInnis began working on legislation to place the peaks in wilderness protection.

“Passage of the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act further demonstrates that public involvement works when designating wilderness areas,” added Allard. “I invite President Clinton to come to Colorado for the bill signing ceremony and allow the many Coloradans who have worked so hard over the years to protect the Spanish Peaks to participate in this momentous occasion.”

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